

the RARS **Exciter**

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society



February, 2004 Number 394



**HAPPY 35TH BIRTHDAY
RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**

Amateur Radio in 1969, seen through the pages of QST:

The May 1969 issue of QST, Station Activities, Roanoke Division, North Carolina, includes this report:

"The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was organized recently with 17 members to date. At the kick-off meeting, the following officers were elected: WA4PEN, pres.; WA4ZZN, secy.; K4CIA, treas.; WA4OTA, legal advisor."

Nationwide Dealers: Henry Radio, MO and CA, Trigger, IL .Harrison, NY. Amateur Electronic Supply, WI. Arrow Electronics, NY. Allied Radio, IL.

In the August issue:

"We welcome the Raleigh Radio Amateur Radio Society, Inc. of Raleigh, and the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club, Greenville, as newly-affiliated ARRL clubs."

The September included the following field day information:

"Clubs taking part in Field Day are the Rowan Amateur Radio Club, Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Seymour Johnson AFB MARS group, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club and Buncombe County Radio Club."

And QST section news rounds out the year in December with this mention:

"The Raleigh Radio Club is going strong and has a lot of projects in the making."

Not invented or in common use yet: Packet: PC's, The Internet, E-mail, frequency synthesizer, digital anything!

The Exciter

The **Exciter** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is the day after the monthly meeting. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily the views of the Editor or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

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TREASURER:	Greg Seamster KE4PAX 919-859-0029 ke4pax@arrl.net



INFO
RARS Repeaters in Raleigh:
145.13 (82.5 PL)
146.64
224.64
444.525 (82.5 PL)

WEB SITE www.rars.org

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:



As I've been under the weather this week, I'll keep this one short. It sounds like I'm not alone in that, so I'll wish everyone good health! Bundle up, and if you've lost your voice like yours truly, go make some CW or RTTY QSOs! 73, Andy

Thank you to everyone who sent in articles for this exciter celebrating RARS 35th birthday.

*The Exciter goes to the printer the first Monday after the general meeting.
Electronic mailing is the same week.
Printing and mailing may vary.*

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETINGS

Date: Every first Tuesday of the Month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church, at Dixie Trail and Clark Avenue, in Raleigh

Time: 7:30pm. Folks start showing up a bit before 7 to chat, brag and eat donuts.

VE Testing: The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August and November RARS meetings, at the RARSfest in April, the Cary Swapfest in July and the JARSfest in November, and following RARS license classes. Please bring a photo ID and the original copy of your current license, plus any CSCEs you have for credit. Please refer to www.rars.org for more information.

Announcements

NEXT RARS MEETINGS:

February 3, 2004 Operating Awards & Wallpaper

March 2, 2004 Lightning Skywarn Class

April 6, 2004 RARS Birthday Party/Awards

2004 HAMFEST SOCIAL

Calling one, calling all...the Raleigh Hamfest Social will be held Saturday evening, April 3. We will need lots of assistance with decorating, food preparation, and serving dinner to our guests that evening. Please give me a call at 872-6555 if you can help in any way. Every little bit of effort goes a long way in making guests to the Raleigh Hamfest feel welcome....and the evening is always a lot of fun for everyone. Barbecue and Fried Chicken will be prepared by a caterer.....what we need from you great cooks out there are side dishes of casseroles, vegetables, salads, and desserts. Hope to hear from many of you between now and the big Hamfest weekend. Please consider how you will help in some way.

Mary Jo Littlewood, K4MJL

Social Chairman

NET REPORTS FOR DECEMBER, 2003

8:00PM DAILY: RARS Evening Net

Participants 412

Traffic 25/20

Time 719 minutes

Sessions 31

8:30PM SAT: Tech & Traders Net

9:00PM MON: SWL/SIG

Participants 58

Traffic 1/1

Time 394 Minutes

Sessions 8

RARS MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership renewals and new membership dues can be paid at RARS meetings, on-line at the RARS website, or mailed to the RARS treasurer. Mail To:

Greg Seamster
RARS Treasurer
1405 Leanne Court
Raleigh, NC 27606

RARS now accepts credit card payments online for new members and membership renewals. See the RARS website (www.rars.org) for more information. You can join or renew for 1, 2, or 3 years.

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

January 6, 2004

The General Membership meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on January 6, 2004 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church. The meeting was called to order at 7:29 by VP Dick Bitner, W8HYD in the absence of President Andy Peterson, NI4S. The total attendance was 51.

Greg, KE4PAX gave the Treasurer's report. He said that the current membership stands at 262.

The VP recognized visitor Chris, KG4CZU.

Dick then read a thank you letter received from ARRL Headquarters acknowledging a \$250 donation RARS made for the effort against BPL.

Israel, N4ZVU announced that he has brought several CDs of various utility programs for RARS members. They were offered free of charge.

Dick then spoke about a mentor program that he would like to launch with the assistance of KN4AQ. His vision is that there would be a pool of talent and knowledge for the new ham to draw upon, or even experienced hams wanting to learn a new aspect of the hobby. He also gave an update on the General class, which is underway. He reported that the class has about 15 students and that lots of interesting discussion is going on in the class.

The VP then introduced Tom Brown, N4TAB and David Crawford, KF4VXJ with the program for the evening: Junkyard antennas. There were two door prizes. They were won by K4HM and N4LEW.

KN4AQ announced that the 145.13 repeater is ready to go up on the D.H. Hill library, and is expected to be on the air from there in just a day or two. He also gave an explanation of the repeater's secondary PL tone system.

There was a short discussion between various members concerning the state of BPL in the area, but no new information was available.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16.

Submitted by Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO in the absence of Virginia, KG4PFA.

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Back 40 Years Ago

My present call, WA4PEN, which is now 40 years old, was issued in July of 1963 as Technician Class. We moved from Greensboro to Raleigh that year. I had no desire at that time for any class higher than Tech since my preference was to use VHF and UHF. My first experiences in VHF were as a youngster in 1-land. In that era we used 2 1/2 and 5 meters until December 7th of 1941, at which point all amateur radio was brought to a screeching halt. When I returned to ham radio in '63 the bands had been changed. At that time all the challenges a "home-brew" kind of guy could want were in the frequency groups which now included 6 meters, 2 meters and 432 (70 centimeters).

My favorite band at that time was 6 meters. I started with a dinky little Heathkit sixer, passed on to me by an old friend, but with its limited capabilities (3 or 4 Watts from the transmitter & a super-regenerative receiver) it quickly became apparent that more power and a better receiver was a must. It should also be noted that the mode was AM. SSB had not yet become that common or important on VHF/UHF bands.

By 1968 we had just about outlived the usefulness of the old HB 100 Watt AM station. This used an 829-B twin pentode for the final, with a push-pull 807 modulator for transmitting and a HB receiving converter with an old Navy surplus RCA RBC 6 receiver. This was coupled to a 5 element beam at around 50 feet. It worked well and we probably could have played the W.A.S. game with it, but we only worked 38 states before we were distracted by the growth of SSB in VHF and the sudden, rapidly growing interest in 2 meter FM.

For 6 meter SSB, I built a little transverter using a 36 meg crystal with an oscillator-buffer chain feeding one side of a mixer tube. The other side was fed with a Central Electronics single side band generator (transmitter) signal operating in the 20 meter band (14 MHz). Output from the mixer was filtered, now as a 6 meter SSB signal, and drove a 2E26 output tube. When higher power was needed, the 2E26 output was "swamped" and used to drive a single 4CX250-B. Essentially the same receiver was used on SSB as for AM except the BFO was turned "on". (This was an exceptionally stable receiver with a rock solid BFO.)

We ultimately replaced the HB station with an SB 110-A from Heathkit. This delivered about 100 Watts through its pair of 6146s and was a very compact unit for that time.

It seems to me that 2 meter interest developed first in the AM mode. Then some of the guys realized that although there were a couple ham manufacturers of 2 meter equipment, there were many building "high band" commercial radios. (These were typically FM units operating at around 150 MHz or just above the Ham 2 meter band.) A converted commercial unit was not only durable, but it was dirt cheap. So that became the most used route into 2 meter FM for a vast majority of interested hams.

By 1967/8 a small nucleus of Raleigh area hams had informally started to talk-up the idea of forming a local club. Many such meetings were held in the basement of WA4PEN/KD4OLZ in the Brentwood section. The founders signed the original incorporation papers (prepared by Tom Alexander, WA4OTA) at the home of John and Suzie Fried on Winton Rd. (now Atlantic Ave.), also in Brentwood.

The craze rapidly developed as hams learned more about converting commercial high band radios to 2 meters FM amateur service. One of the first RARS club projects was that of converting a Motorola railroad radio package into a club repeater. The first RARS unit in operation was dual sited with the transmitter at the QTH of Lee Johnson, WA4ZNA (RARS V.P.) and the receiver at the QTH of Ed Alderman, WA4PEN (RARS Pres.) The receiving and transmitting sections were coupled via a nearly 1/4 mile long twisted pair telephone line run through the woods behind many neighbors homes. After we were sure those parts of the system were performing properly we obtained a duplexer and went to a single site. We used it experimentally for a while at Lee's QTH. After hunting for a while we obtained permission to use the Bayleaf Site for our repeater.

The Motorola radio was a particularly sought after unit by ham groups because of the Sensicon -A receiver which included a 5 tuned cavity front end. The club enjoyed good service from this and various replacement units for several years before it was replaced with a "later and greater" solid state repeater.

During the early 70s many club members also obtained similar units, converted them, used them and later replaced them with the newer and much smaller solid state packages. It is suspected that some of those original guys may still have one of those old units gathering dust. The unit I converted for my own use was modified to operate on 5 frequency pairs as opposed to the maximum of three for which it was designed. This was a broad spread considering the compromise required in setting the cavity for the heterodyne oscillator. The transmitter also boasted a pair of 6146s rather than the pair of 2E26s as in the original equipment. This extra output power required a beefier power transformer, too.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

RARS members were caught in the transition of development and change as the newer solid state technology gradually replaced the old vacuum tube technology. One of the First Prizes awarded at an early RARSfest was an HF transceiver (270) that was full of vacuum tubes, while just a few years later that unit was considered obsolete. As a club it is felt that RARS has profited significantly in membership and technical capabilities from the vigorous growth in a host of technical and industrial businesses which have sprung up in the Capitol area.

The RARS family has done a lot of growing in 35 years! Hmmm! I wonder what is next!

Ed Alderman, wa4pen@juno.com or

wa4pen@nc.rr.com (919) 876-0340

Equipment from the past

I have only been a Ham for about 13 years, but I got started with used equipment that was at least 35 years old or older. My first station consisted of a Hammarlund HQ-150 receiver, made in Mars Hill, N.C. about 1958, and a Heathkit MT-1 Transmitter, likewise late '50's or early '60's vintage, purchased at the 1990 Greensboro Hamfest for \$35. Both were tube type gear, and made wonderful hamshack heaters in wintertime.

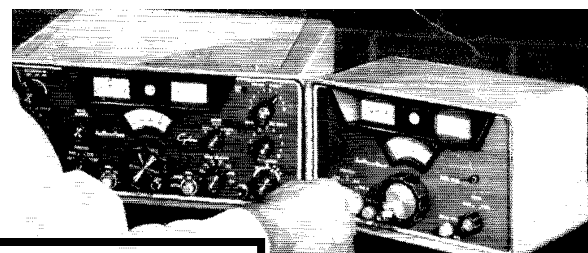
The antenna consisted of 135 feet of salvaged electrical house wiring strung between two pine trees, and connected to the antenna tuner with 450 Ohm ladder line. I actually climbed up the trees about 45 feet, installing step bolts as I climbed, and installed eye bolts for the antenna lanyards (of course, I was somewhat younger and more agile back then).

The antenna tuner was homebrew, built in a cabinet salvaged from a junked Hammarlund "Outercom" commercial VHF mobile transceiver. The roller inductor in the tuner was a WW-2 surplus item from an ARC-5 transmitter, and the turns counter was homebrewed from a Plymouth Arrow odometer.

Shortly after getting the whole mess on the air, the tuner arced over and caused a fire which destroyed the plastic odometer unit. When the RARS members found out about this, they presented me a miniature fire extinguisher at the annual awards meeting. Even though the transmitter only put out 15 to 20 watts, it provided some exciting D-X, including a solid contact with S79MX on Seychelles Island, in the Indian Ocean, and my first ever H-F contact, EC7DTI in Cordoba, Spain.

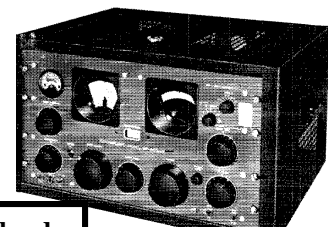
I am currently using a state-of-the-art Ten-Tec Jupiter transceiver, along with my original antenna tuner, which was rebuilt after the fire, but nothing has ever matched the fun and excitement of the old original tube gear. 73/88 // Max, KO4TV \\\

RADIOS FROM 1968 & 1969



Hallicrafters 1969

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Hammarlund

LOOKing Back 30 Years

Taken from the February 1974 Exciter

FEBRUARY 1974

RARS celebrates 5th year anniversary

RARS recently leased a facility for a club station. The location is about ½ mile south of Tryon Road on Lake Wheeler Road at a former FAA microwave repeater site. A small building at the site has two rooms about 12 x 12 feet and 6 foot fence enclosing the area. The most outstanding feature of the site is the 200 foot tower that will be used for some fancy "skywires". The station call is W4DW.



LOOKing Back 10 Years

Taken from the February 1994 Exciter

FEBRUARY 1994

RARS celebrated it's 25th anniversary by looking back in the year it was formed, 1969.

America was celebrating the first trip around the moon of Apollo 8 the previous Christmas. Feb 1969 America was still mourning the deaths of Martin Luther King, Jr and Robert Kennedy which both occurred less then a year earlier. Embers were still smoldering from riots in the major cities. Feb 1969 Richard Nixon was celebrating his one month anniversary as President of the USA. February 1969, A few people were making arrangements for a big rock concert on Mr. Yasgur's farm in New York state in August....it would be known as Woodstock. Another group of people, who would come to be known as Trekkies, were enjoying the last few months of first run episodes of the TV show, "Star Trek". Hams searched in vain for a radio as "cool" as the Star Fleet Communicator. It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. But in this time of triumph and turmoil there came into being the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, incorporated in February of 1969.

Meanwhile back in 1994, this month is RARS' 25th anniversary. Raleigh's new two meter "skyscraper" machine 147.015 is on the air from the heart of Raleigh. The new KK4YP/R is atop the Center Plaza building on the Fayetteville Street mall. The plaza is 23 stories tall, and the repeater is mounted on the top floor with the antenna on the roof. This translates to a height of 302 feet above ground, and an overall height of over 700 feet above mean sea level. The RARS/STARS 145.13 repeater went on the air January 4, 1994.

The repeater is located in the steeple of the Forest Hills Baptist Church about a mile east of the 440 Beltline at Hillsboro St. Also 146.775 co-located with the 444.875 repeater, 200 feet up one of the towers near the fairgrounds is up and running. Tom WA4SIS and Danny KD4RAA put up this machine.

Any Interest in a Reactivated Homebrew Group?

In the early 90's RARS had a homebrew special interest group. The group fell apart when the leader (Jim Martin?) left the area. Several members of the Scanner/SWL special interest group have recently expressed interest reactivating the homebrew group, and want to find out if there is broader interest within the RARS membership.

The old group met once a month to share information, view the members' latest construction projects, etc. Anything having to do with the construction and technical side of our hobby was OK in the group. At times several members built the same item. The projects gravitated toward smaller gear as most members were too busy to tackle complex projects. There were about a dozen members, and average meeting attendance was about 8.

Overall the biggest plus to this group was that it inspired the members to pick up the soldering iron and build something. Home construction has slowly faded as ham gear has become more complex, but it can be a very satisfying aspect of the hobby which should be encouraged.

Let's find out if there is enough interest in this within RARS to allow us to form a viable special interest group. If you are interested in participating in such a group please send Tom, K4ZAD a message at mckeetajc@earthlink.net.

35 YEARS AGO

35 Years ago found me single and living and working in Smithfield, NC, for the Sylvania Home Entertainment Products Division. Overtime was heavy so there was not too much time for other activities. I had a large bedroom in a private home in Wilson Mills, just outside Smithfield. My ham radio setup was on a two tiered table built and finished by the husband of a good ham friend in Batavia, NY from where I transferred 2 years earlier. W4RUH, the call I received after arriving in NC, was on the air with Drake Twins for HF and early 2 meter FM ICOM and Motorola gear. The antennas were a Reyco Trap Multiband Dipole and a 10 element Cushcraft Array for 2 meters. I also enjoyed operating a Swan 350 on HF Mobile and giving out area counties for the County Hunters Nets. I would check into the RARS 2M net on 146.94 Mhz now and then.

There was a RACES Emergency/Radio Group that met at the Selma Emergency Management Office weekly. We met, but thankfully, other than periodic test nets our communications skills were never actually tested. As time permitted I started attending the RARS Meetings in Raleigh when we met in the basement of the Dept. of Transportation Building on Wilmington Street.

I also was able to enjoy some social activities and met my future wife Mary Jo. We married in July, 1970, in Asheville, NC. We lived in Garner and I commuted to Smithfield until going to work for ITT/Alcatel in 1971. Family, Church and Ham Radio activities have and continue to be a great source of enjoyment.

Chuck, K4HF

A Novice in 1968

I was first licensed in 1968 as a Novice, under the call-sign WN3JYK in MD (horrible for CW). (The Novice license expired after two years at that time, and was non-renewable.) I was one of several junior high school students that was introduced to the hobby by the husband of my 7th grade Science teacher. He told us all about the hobby and what we could do with it, and even administered the exam (this was before VEs - any General class holder could give the Novice exam). My first rig was a Heathkit DX-60B that I built from the kit, along with a borrowed Heathkit receiver. I soon upgraded to an RME-6900, a ham bands only receiver built by Electro-Voice (and you thought they only made speakers!), and a fine receiver at that. I sometimes wish I still had it.

The Heathkit transmitter put out the legal limit (for Novices) of 75 watts, though it was capable of a whopping 90! Unfortunately, Novices were not allowed to use VFOs at that time, so you were pretty much at the mercy of whomever hap-

pened to be tuning across the band, hoping someone heard you calling your feeble "CQ." The DX-60 had all of four crystal sockets (and crystals weren't cheap!), so it was a pretty severe handicap. I also had the handicap of only having room for a 15 meter dipole, and 1968 was the bottom of the sunspot cycle, so contacts were few and far between. The QSOs I made were good ones, however - I remember California, Mexico and the Panama Canal Zone; not bad for the setup I had! The folded dipole was made out of TV twin lead (it was cheap!), and I had to learn what a balun was, since you can't feed a folded dipole with coax unless you have a tuner (I didn't). VHF operating was a considerable challenge, as most of the equipment was military surplus and required serious modifications to make it work on the amateur bands. The money and technical skills needed to do that were beyond my capabilities at the time, and the other main option, the 5 watt Heathkit "lunchbox" radios that transmitted only AM were not of great interest. I'm not even sure there were any repeaters in the area at that time - it was all direct contact.

At the end of the two years my ticket expired, and the demands of school, other interests, and lack of contacts combined to make me lose the spark, so I took a long break from ham radio. However, it was enough to influence my choice of career (electrical engineering), and I still use some of the things I learned through radio tinkering in my job. I was encouraged to take up the hobby again on moving to Raleigh by John Thomas, KK4JB, who's been a good friend over the years. I started as a Technician, N4QHJ (another winner for CW), and quickly upgraded (in steps) to General, then Advanced as KM4EP, then Extra. I also upgraded my rig (having a real job rather than a paper route helps!), and have done some HF and VHF work, though I'm not as active as I'd like due to work and kids' activities.

The hobby is considerably more exciting than it was in 1968, with many more possible activities (computers? HTs? not in 1968!). I've met many friendly, helpful, and technically competent people through it, and learned a lot. Ham radio is a great hobby, and provides a chance to help our community through disaster communications and public service activities.

Thanks and 73s to all of you who've made it what it is.

Jay Diepenbrock, KM4EP

When I was 13

I have been an amateur radio operator for over 42 years - I was 13 when my first license arrived. I attended the initial formation meeting of RARS in 1968 at the old Occidental Building on Wade Ave. when I was in college.

Radio equipment has changed greatly since 1961. The leading manufacturers were Hallicrafters, Heath, Hammarlund, National, Collins and host of others. Virtually all the equipment was AM and there were separate transmitters and receivers. Collins was the exception with their SSB S-line and their KWM-2A transceiver. You had to have some sort of antenna relay to switch your antenna from your receiver to your transmitter when you transmitted - Dow Key made the only one commercially. The big switch to SSB began in the early 1960's with almost everyone on SSB by the end of the decade.

All the equipment was manufactured in the US and all the equipment used tubes. No one was on two meters except for a few amateurs - the only real VHF and UHF gear was manufactured by Clegg and Gonset. HyGain and Mosely were in business selling beams and verticals but there were many others. Amphenol RG-8U was the only coax available and virtually no one was using a tower. The antenna of choice was a dipole but if you could get a utility pole, it was the preferred method of putting up a beam. The quad antenna was popular because of it's better performance at lower heights. Antenna rotors were rare so most amateurs used a TV antenna rotor but some used an old propeller pitch motor to turn their antenna - it was slow but it could turn your house.

Most all the equipment used a logarithmic dial to indicate frequency. Most equipment used a dial string to move the frequency indicator horizontally as you turned the VFO knob. Frequency accuracy was never really too exact so you just zero beat the other guys frequency. The Collins R-390 surplus receiver was the only one that indicated exact frequency by digits - it had a complex system of gears behind the front panel that linearly moved the VFO and the frequency readout. The thing had 28 tubes and weighed about 40 pounds.

The biggest changes have been the size, weight, accuracy, reliability and cost of most equipment. Of course no equipment now uses tubes except for a linear amplifier. As a result, the heat output has dropped dramatically - the heat from the radio equipment could heat half your home!

Without a doubt, today's equipment is superior, more reliable, more compact and much more sensitive. Unfortunately the majority of it is not made in the US.

My first "rig" was an Eico 720 CW transmitter with a Hallicrafters SX-99 receiver. After getting my General license, the receiver was a Hallicrafters SX-111 along with an Eico AM modulator and VFO for the Eico 720. That lasted less

than a year when the Hallicrafters HT-44 transmitter arrived - it had SSB - and a Hallicrafters HT-41 amplifier was added - this thing glowed purple because it had large mercury vapor rectifier tubes. When they arced, it was quite a sound and light show!! The antennae were dipoles and monoband homemade beams for 20 and 15 meters on homemade tower - my family supported and encouraged amateur radio. This was the equipment through 1972 when a switch was made to a Heath SB-102 transceiver and a Heath SB-220 amplifier - this amplifier was used for over ten years and sold for about \$100 more than what it originally cost!

73

Bert

WA4TLI

E-mail: wa4tli@arrl.net

919-467-4522



146.88 145.39, 147.105, & 147.135 Repeaters are supported by PCRN if you would like to donate please make checks to:

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RARS NEW MEMBERS

January 2003

We would like to welcome our new members to RARS. Thank you for considering us for your amateur radio club.

Jim Davis KG4ZWS
Jim Toups WA5APR



DID YOU KNOW.....

There is a dinner once a month, known as the RARS Dinner, where hams and non-hams get together to eat, socialize and become better acquainted.

Are you looking for a ham-related activity that your spouse, date, or family can participate in, even if they don't want to be an amateur radio operator? This is it. Do you want to meet interesting, likeable people in a nice environment? This is for you.

Come join us on the 4th Tuesday of each month. We are currently meeting in the private dining room at the Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue. People start arriving around 6:30 P.M., and things usually wind down by 8 P.M. or so. You can come whenever it's convenient for you. This gathering is open to anyone, RARS and non-RARS members, adults and children alike. Hope to see you there.

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Remember to give damage reports AFTER the storms as well as DURING the storms.

SKYWARN DINNER:

January 25, 2004, 6:30pm at the China Buffet Restaurant, 12516 Capital Boulevard in Wake Forest. A car pool will be formed in Cary for those interested in riding with others.



Pictured from left to right:
EC John VanPelt K4JVP- Central Carolina Skywarn
AEC John Hamilton NC4JH -Triad Skywarn
EC Bill Boyes KB1G -Triad Skywarn
AEC Denyse Walter KG4CXR- CCSkywarn
Jeff Orrock -Severe Weather Coordinator Raleigh
AEC Bob Woodson WX4MMM-CCSkywarn

Photo by Matt KG4MYD

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3:30. MORE INFO
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NETS AND
EMAILS**

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY DECEMBER 7, 2003



Matt KG4MYD & Bill KB1G



Virginia KG4PFA, Mary Jo
K4MJL Mike KC4WUH



Chuck K4HF & Mary Jo
K4MJL



Mike KC4WUH (sitting)
Bill KB1G

Photos by Denyse KG4CXR

Skywarn Recognition Day

The Skywarn Recognition Day was held at the National Weather Service on December 6. The special day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League to celebrate the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the NWS. There were 116 NWS Stations nationwide that participated. The Special Event period was from December 6th 0000z to 2400z. All modes were encouraged to participate. The exchanged used for the event was the callsign, signal report (HF), location, name and short weather report. Modes of contacts were: HF, VHF/UHF, SSB, CW, PSK31, APRS, Echolink and IRLP. Endorsements were also given if the requirement was met. This event is every year the first week of December.

HAMFEST CALENDAR

March 13-14	Charlotte, NC
March 21	Kinston, NC
March 27-28	Baltimore, MD
APRIL 4	RALEIGH, NC
April 17	Morganton, NC
May 8*	Durham, NC
May 14-16	DAYTON, OH
May 15*	Williamston, NC
June TBA	Winston-Salem, NC
June 26-27	FIELD DAY

* Denotes date not confirmed

Courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal



JUNK ANTENNAS AT THE JANUARY 2004 RARS MEETING



David Crawford KF4VXJ and Tom Brown N4TAB showed a variety of emergency antennas that can be quickly fashioned out of material you can find around the house. The hit of the night was the aluminum foil ground plane antenna. Tom took a sheet of foil from a roll, put it on the top of a table and said "Ground plane." He put a coffee cup on it and "connected" a piece of coax by laying a long, stripped section of braid under the foil, and the stripped center conductor in the cup. Then he tossed the rest of the roll of aluminum foil into the cup and said, "Ground plane antenna!" The crowd cheered.



Photos by Gary KN4AQ